

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Council of the Faculty of Arts and Science

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, December 16, 1988

- Present: C. Bertrand, Chair; B. Spanos; E. Gardham; C. Foster; J. Appleby, D. Dicks; S. Ruby; G. Valaskakis; D. Acland; P. Widden; Z. Hamlet; E. Preston; R. Schmid; G. Auchinachie; C. Levy; M. Barlow; H. deRomer; G. Decarie; R. Perigoe; W. Byers; B. Villata; C. Gray; D. Salee; C. White; M. Oppenheim; J. Drysdale; S. Hoecker-Drysdale; J. Ryan; M. Brian; C. Davis; M. Mendell; R. Seppanen; A. Macpherson; S. O'Hara; E. Mourillon; N. DeGraff; M. Sullivan; S. Maguire; H. McLachlan; F. Fazio; J. Bara.
- Regrets: W. Gilsdorf; M. Giguere; B. Barkman; Y-L. Khoury; S. Letovsky.
- Absent: R. Pallen; H. McQueen; J. Gavin; R. Kilgour; I. Irvine; G. Trudel; H. Shulman; G. Szamosi; M. Dionne; M. Moser; E. Notkin.
- Guest: E. Siggel; R. Cawley.

Documents considered and distributed at the meeting

- ASFC 88-11M-A a) Ratification of student representatives
- b) Election - Advisory Search Committees for the Appointment of Chair, Principal, Director
- c) Election - Search Advisory Committee for the position of Registrar
- ASFC 88-11M-C a) Proposed Certificate in Family Life Education Program for Cree School Board Counsellors
- b) Addendum to Report 61G - Graduate Curriculum Course Change Proposals (Diploma in Economics)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1335.

2. Approval of Agenda

- 88-11-1 It was moved and seconded (Preston/Decarie) that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED3. Approval of Minutes of November 11, 1988

- 88-11-2 It was moved and seconded (Widden/deRomer) that the minutes of November 11, 1988, be approved.

Maguire stated that one of the remarks attributed to him on page 8, "limited to the 'core'" should read "applied specifically to the 'core'".

Levy pointed out that the last line on page 3, "Canons and Culture from Quadrivium to Trivia" should read "Canons and Culture from Quadrivium to Trivia?".

Maguire asked if it would be possible to include in the minutes the number of votes when a hand vote is taken. The Dean agreed that this was possible.

CARRIED (with corrections)

4. Remarks from the Chair

The Chair pointed out that while the agenda was slight the meeting was necessary because of the elections and the two unfinished curriculum issues.

The Dean announced that part-time faculty members serving on Council will be paid \$50.00 per Council session retroactive to September 1988. This had been fully supported by the Steering Committee of Council.

In response to a request from the student representatives, the Chair announced that they will be able to park in the Loyola parking lot on Friday afternoon during Council meetings. The permits could be obtained from Bill Spanos.

The Dean wished Council members a happy holiday and New Year.

5. Questions and Announcements

Auchinachie asked if the money for the capital budget for Arts and Science had been drastically curtailed this year. The Dean replied that it had been, but there will be additional monies available once a formula for its distribution has been worked out.

6.a) Ratification of Student Representatives

Tabled until January

b) Election - Search Advisory Committee for the Position of University Registrar

T. Gray - Psych

ACCLAIMED

c) Election - Advisory Search Committees for the Appointment of Chair/Principal/Director

ACCLAIMED

Chemistry & Biochemistry
Classics -

B. Frank (PHYS)
E. Ronquist (ENGL)

Education	-	M. Taylor	(APSS)
English	-	F. Krantz	(HIST)
Geology	-	B. Slack	(GEOG)
Philosophy	-	J. Moore	(POLI)
Physics	-	P. Widden	(BIOL)
Political Science	-	M. Mason	(HIST)
Psychology	-	J. Smucker	(SOCI)
Theology	-	G. Dewey	(SOCI)
Journalism	-	M. Allor	(COMS)

ELECTED

Communication Studies - J. Jackson (SOCI)

7.a) Proposed Certificate in Family Life Education Program for Cree School Board Counsellors

Vice-Dean Dicks drew Council's attention to document ASFC 88-11-M-C. He pointed out that the preliminary pages of the document were not a calendar entry but were there to provide a written rationale for the programme. A program in Family Life Education already exists in APSS. With some adjustments this program could be offered to Cree School Board counsellors. The modification to the program would allow Cree students who do not have the normal entrance requirements to enrol in the program. The major change concerns the prerequisites, which are normally APSS 240, SOCI 203 and PSYC 200. Because this program will be offered 'on site' in Northern Quebec SOCI 203 and PSYC 200 will not be available. The prerequisites will change to APSS 240 and 9 credits taken elsewhere. Another adjustment deals with "12 credits chosen from" and a long list of options; this will be replaced by APSS 456, 463 and 398, courses specifically useful to this clientele.

38-11-3

It was moved and seconded (Dicks/Preston) that Council approve the adjustments in the program requirements for the Certificate in Family Life Education for Cree School Board Counsellors.

Brian stated that the prerequisites for the program are specifically for mature entry students. The statement that "all students qualify as mature entrants" should be modified, as only half qualify as mature entrants. She also inquired about the nature of the 9 credits taken elsewhere (i.e. where would these credits be taken..., what type of credits would they be).

Cawley explained that this was a 30 credit program that had a 6 credit prerequisite (APSS 240) which is an introductory level course, and that the additional 9 credit requirement would be waived for students entering the program with a Secondary V background only.

Vice-Dean Dicks added that since the University is sending instructors to the Cree location for short periods of time, a preparatory course to cover material that students are lacking could be offered.

The Dean stressed that this was a 'one-time only' proposal, mounted for a specific purpose and for a specific group. This is not an ongoing program.

Schmid expressed concerns regarding the title and description of the program. He did not object to the general goals of the program, but to the content as described in the third paragraph, more specifically "the Family Life Education ... focuses on the educational role of the school counsellor..."...."It is important to understand that school counsellors are not therapists but are educators fulfilling an educational function." Schmid stated that the program was very weak in the area of education and that the description was a misrepresentation of education in general and misleading for students. He suggested that either the title or description be changed to reflect the actual content of the program.

Vice Dean Dicks replied that this type of change would be inappropriate for Council to debate as it involved changing the title and description of an already existing program.

CARRIED

- b) Addendum to Report 61G - Graduate Curriculum Course Change Proposals (Diploma in Economics) (ASFC 88-11M-C)

Vice-Dean Dicks pointed out that the addendum included a rationale, a description of the clientele, as well as the program description as corrected by the BGS and APC committees. Many of the questions raised at the last ASFC meeting have been answered in the text. The basic rationale for the program is set out on pages 1 and 2. This Diploma program is designed to replace the qualifying year. The advantage to students would be that they would register in an actual program, and upon successful completion of the year obtain a Diploma, which is not the case with the qualifying year. From the University's point of view the Diploma program will allow for better funding to cover costs. With regard to standards established for the program, there will be an entrance requirement, and a performance requirement. This is the first Diploma program in Arts & Science to establish such criteria, either for entry or for performance. BGS would like all future calendar entries to include performance standards and has mandated its rules and regulations committee to examine the possibility of making performance standards uniform across the University and establishing means of applying these standards. As to costs, the courses are either cross-listed with current undergraduate courses or existing Masters level courses; therefore, as no new costs are involved, current resources will be better used.

88-11-4 It was moved and seconded (Dicks/Auchinachie) that Council accept the proposed new program, "Diploma in Economics".

Decarie stated that students with a "C" background in undergraduate work may not be successful in graduate level courses.

Vice-Dean Dicks reiterated that this is the first Diploma program in Arts & Science to have published entrance requirements. The usual objective in Diploma programs is to accept students from as wide a spectrum as possible.

Siggel explained that the entrance requirements to the MA in Economics are fairly high. However, students with a "C" background do not necessarily repeat this standard in the future and an applicant's entire background is taken into account. In a Diploma program, students entering with a "C" average seemed acceptable. Faculty judgement must be exercised to ensure that weak students who may not succeed are not admitted.

Maguire agreed with Decarie. Students with a "C" standing in the previous program and credits in Economics - which include intermediate theory in both micro- and macro-economics, statistical methods, and the application of mathematical tools (calculus and linear algebra) to business or economics - might very easily be admitted to this program. However, they may not pass most of the courses listed, especially since a minimum G.P.A. of 2.5 is expected of them in the required graduate courses. It is one thing to cast a wide net, another to cast it so wide that many entering students will likely fail.

With regard to the admission requirements as they apply to Mathematics Byers remarked that there was no mention of specific requirements. He wondered whether the Economics Department was proposing to teach all of the Mathematics courses themselves. He also expressed concern regarding the replacement of a qualifying year by a Diploma program. In some instances rather than admit students directly to a program, one would like them to do a qualifying year. He wondered whether the option of a qualifying year in Economics would still exist.

Dicks replied that this program would replace the qualifying year. From a curricular point of view the Diploma program is not different from the qualifying year. However, there is a difference from a funding and status point of view.

Byers felt this was a mistake. Often a student only needs half a qualifying year, that is, one semester. If one has to put students through a whole program, considerable flexibility is lost. Some candidates may only need specific courses before entering a Master's program.

Dicks replied that current regulations allow for this. The program involves no potential cost to the students in the sense implied. It is to the advantage of the students to be in a program that has a specific outcome and a higher status. He also felt that too much weight was being given to the calendar copy. The calendar has to state the extremes and then allow for judgments within those extremes.

Siggel added that the document stated the admission requirements very clearly. Page 1 stated that students should have "sufficient credits in Economics and basic statistical and mathematical methods to cope with graduate level courses in Economics", i.e. ECON 301, 302, 303, 304 and 221, 222 and Mathematics for Economists 325 and 326. These courses are already being taught, they are not 'pure' Mathematics courses but they are applied mathematics to economics problems.

Acland remarked that when he first reviewed the proposal he had assumed that the 500 level courses were new courses at the graduate level. He now understood that these were senior undergraduate level courses. Prospective students might make the same mistake. He therefore felt that students should be alerted to the fact that these are in fact undergraduate courses.

Dicks explained that such designations have caused a few problems. In the past, the calendar used to list all of the cross-listings. Many diploma programs have cross-listed courses at the undergraduate level and the 40% rule is designed to ensure that at least 40% of the courses taken at the graduate diploma level be at the 500 or 600 level. It will be up to the Department to advise students of the undergraduate cross-listings and of the prerequisites to enter the courses.

Drysdale drew Council's attention to page 3, regarding the admission standards. There were two contradictory statements which could be remedied in one of two ways. The first sentence on page 3 stated that "the objective of the diploma program is to provide university graduates having above average academic records..." and then it is stated that "... they should have at least a "C" standing in their previous program;". A "C" standing is not above average, so either the "C" standing should be changed to a 2.5 G.P.A., which would be consistent with the performance requirement, or the first sentence should be changed to read "...graduates having mediocre academic records." The Steering Committee was concerned about the low admission standard, and rejected the argument that because this is the first diploma program to have stated standards that they are the highest. Council ought to be especially concerned that it not set a precedent at a mediocre level for other diploma programs.

88-11-5 It was moved and seconded (Drysdale/Decarie) that the admission requirements, set out in paragraph a) of page 1 of the Calendar Copy be changed from "C" to "a 2.5 G.P.A. in their previous program."

Dicks reminded Council that the "C" requirement was to be a minimum and not the norm. An alternative might be to approve the proposal as is and make it subject to changes if BGS decides to raise the standards.

Oppenheim stated that either a) be taken out completely, or it be changed to 2.5, because otherwise Council would be accepting that a "C" standing is sufficient to enter this kind of program.

CARRIED Vote: In favour: 14
 Opposed: 10
 Abstentions: 13

88-11-6 It was moved and seconded (Maguire/O'Hara) that paragraph b) on page 1 of the Calendar Copy be altered by changing the word "basic" to "specifically" and adding "to include intermediate level microeconomic theory, intermediate level macroeconomic theory, statistical methods, and application of mathematical tools (calculus and linear algebra) to business or economics and to have achieved at least a "C-" in each of those courses."

Maguire stated that the proposal should be more specific. He was also concerned that a "D" student might not succeed in the program.

Dicks responded that this kind of statement in the calendar would result in explaining criteria that are up to the judgment of the faculty members. The

calendar should be a general document that states the extremes that the Faculty has established, not the details of each item that is considered when admitting a student.

DEFEATED

With respect to the Class "C" courses from the Faculty of Commerce, Acland asked if the Department of Economics was aware that there were approximately 30 graduate programs in the Faculty of Commerce, available to graduate students only. It was pointed out that the statement on page 4 concerning Class C courses "All Masters level courses in the Faculty of Commerce" was incorrect. The students in this program would not be eligible to take any of the Masters level courses.

Siggel responded that this statement was in the original proposal, but simply stipulated graduate level courses in the Faculty of Commerce. It was changed to Masters level courses in the interest of keeping high standards. The graduate courses in Economics are all at the Masters level.

CARRIED as amended.

8. Supplemental Examinations

Dicks informed Council that the Steering Committee had requested that the Curriculum Committee provide a motion on Supplemental Examinations for this meeting in light of the debate regarding their elimination. He had informed the Steering Committee that the preparation of such a motion would have to be postponed to allow for consultation with other Faculties and with Vice-Dean Ruby on the implication of such a proposal. A motion will be presented at the February meeting.

Macpherson asked if it would be possible to get statistics on how many students actually take supplementals, and how many get better grades as a result of supplementals.

Vice-Dean Dicks replied that virtually none get better grades, but he would try to gather some data.

9. Other Business

None

10. Next Meeting

Friday, January 20, 1989, at 1:30 p.m. in AD-131, Loyola Campus.

11. Adjournment

88-11-7 It was moved and seconded (Macpherson/Schmid) that the meeting be adjourned at 1440 hours.

7/11/89 01/02/89